

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A catalyst bed combination comprising a bed of a particulate copper-containing catalyst and, upstream of the catalyst bed, a guard bed of shaped units wherein the guard bed shaped units are formed by mixing lead oxide particles and a mixture of two or more particulate hydrated aluminas.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) A combination according to claim 1 wherein the shaped units are formed from a composition containing a processing aid.
5. (Previously Presented) A combination according to claim 1 wherein the shaped units have a lead content of 5 to 75%, by weight of lead (expressed as metal).
6. (Previously Presented) A combination according to claim 1 wherein the shaped units have a lead content of 30 to 75%, by weight of lead (expressed as metal).
7. (Currently Amended) A combination according to claim 4 wherein ~~the shaped units are formed from lead oxide, hydrated alumina and~~ processing aid is graphite.
8. (Previously Presented) A combination according to claim 1 wherein the lead oxide used to form the shaped units has an average (by weight) particle size below 50 μm
9. (Currently Amended) A process for performing a catalytic reaction selected from hydrogenation, methanol synthesis, methanol decomposition, the shift reaction and the reverse shift reaction using a bed of a copper-containing catalyst, comprising passing a process gas through a guard bed of shaped units and then passing said gas through the bed of copper-containing catalyst wherein the guard bed shaped units are formed by mixing lead oxide particles and a mixture of two or more particulate hydrated aluminas.